

Message Text

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71-61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00

L-03 H-02 ITC-01 OES-06 PA-01 PRS-01 /105 W

----- 072468

O R 012144Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1722

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 5545

DEPT INFORM AMBASSADOR THEBERGE, CONSULTING IN WDC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, ETRD, NU

SUBJECT: 1977 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 290047

1. AGRICULTURE MINISTER KLAUS SENGELMANN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF

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LOCAL CATTLE INDUSTRY CALLED ON CHARGE AND ECONOFF TODAY TO CONSULT

ON SUBJECT PROGRAM. ALSO DISCUSSED EFFECT OF COFFEE RUST (MANAGUA 5520) ON ECONOMY AND GON EFFORTS OBTAIN FINANCING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (BEING REPORTED SEPTELS).

2. SENGELMANN EXPRESSED COMPLETE FAMILIARITY WITH RATIONALE FOR US MEAT IMPORT RESTRAINT SYSTEM AND DIFFICULTIES USG HAS HAD IN GRANTING PREFERENTIAL STATUS FOR NICARAGUA OR CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. NONETHELESS, HE SAID, GON WILL MAKE STRONG CASE REQUESTING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT NOT ONLY ON TRADITIONAL GROUNDS BUT ALSO ON GROUNDS THAT GREATER MEAT EXPORTS COULD HELP OFFSET SOMEWHAT THE SERIOUS THREAT WHICH THE COFFEE BLIGHT REPRESENT

TO THE NATION'S ECONOMY.

3. SENGELMANN POINTED OUT TO EMBASSY THAT CATTLE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN ASSUMING INCREASING IMPORTANCE FOR NICARAGUA'S OVERALL ECONOMY AND THAT NICARAGUA COULD EASILY DOUBLE ITS HERD SIZE AND MEAT PRODUCTION IN SHORT TIME. NICARAGUA WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO HAVE AN ASSURED MARKET IN US. PRICES OF NICARAGUAN MEAT, HE NOTED, ARE NOT COMPETITIVE IN MANY OTHER POTENTIAL MARKETS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE THAT IMPORTED MEAT BE FROM COUNTRIES FREE OF HOOF-AND-MOUTH DISEASE. US IS NICARAGUA'S NATURAL AND ONLY AVAILABLE MARKET, HE ASSERTED.

4. WITH COFFEE RUST ENDANGERING NICARAGUA'S SECOND MOST IMPORTANT EXPORT CROP, MEAT EXPORTS COULD ASSUME ALMOST VITAL IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMY, MINISTER COMMENTED. ACCORDINGLY, NICARAGUAN NEGOTIATORS WILL PUSH HARD FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED ALLOCATION FOR MEAT EXPORTS TO US.

5. SENGELMANN HAD ALREADY PLANNED TO BE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH AFOREMENTIONED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS. HE WILL, THEREFORE, UTILIZE OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT NICARAGUA IN MEAT IMPORT NEGOTIATIONS. HE WOULD PREFER TO MEET WITH US NEGOTIATORS MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS BY DR. OSCAR SEVILLA SACASA, HEAD OF LOCAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, FORMER FONMIN AND BROTHER OF NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

6. INASMUCH AS SENGELMANN MUST FLY BACK TO MANAGUA WEDNESDAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVENING, DECEMBER 8, AND WILL HAVE FULL SCHEDULE OF OTHER APPOINTMENTS ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HIS BEING GIVEN APPOINTMENT WITH USG NEGOTIATORS ON MONDAY MORNING, AS HE HAS REQUESTED.

7. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD OFFICIAL GON NOTIFICATION RE NICARAGUAN NEGOTIATING TEAM ASAP. AGRMIN OFFICIAL UNDETOOK TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF 1977 MEAT PRODUCTION BY END THIS WEEK.

THAT DATA WILL ALSO BE FORWARDED. MEANWHILE, LATEST AGATT ESTIMATE
OF LIKELY 1977 NICARAGUAN PRODUCTION BONELESS MEAT FOR EXPORT
(SAN SALVADOR NC-6015, 9/24/76) IS 55 MILLION POUNDS.

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING WITH SENGELMAN SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH
GUILLERMO SEVILLA SACASA, NICARAGUA'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.
RUBENSTEIN

NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE INCORRECT; UNABLE TO IDENTIFY.

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